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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN TEXTILE AND APPAREL DATA

REF: SECSTATE 184238

Embassy contacted various GoG agencies to collect the textile and apparel data solicited by reftel. Methodologies vary and data quality is mixed, so we have had to rely on a few leaps of faith to come up with some of our estimates. The total value of industrial production on a national accounts basis was \$2,990 million in 2002 and \$3,140 USD in 2003, according to our estimates using Central Bank (Banguat) data. Note that Guatemala's national accounts are based on the 1958 industrial census and are therefore a bit suspect. The Apparel and Textiles Commission (Vestex), a component of the Chamber of Nontraditional Exports (Agexprot), estimates the total value of textile and apparel production at 1,414.8 million USD in 2002 and 1,486.5 million in 2003. Value added in textile and apparel exports (presumably comparable to the national accounts data for industrial production) was \$345.8 million in 2002 and \$418.5 million in 2003, according to Banguat (reporting net exports in the services account on a balance of payments basis). The corresponding percentages of value added in industrial production represented by textile and apparel exports would be 11.6% and 13.3% for 2002 and 2003, though we caution against using three-digit precision. There were 195,954 workers in the manufacturing sector registered with the Guatemalan Social Security Institute in 2002 and 196,337 in 2003. Agexprot's surveys indicate that the number of workers in the apparel industry in was around 106,100 in 2002 and 108,100 in 2003. As of the time of this writing, Agexprot does not track the number of workers in the textile and apparel sector, though it is planning to start. The POC for textile and apparel issues is Econoff Mark Andrew Stephens.

HAMILTON